EXCISE 6971

P800003-0472

ACTION is assigned 61

HERMAN E. TALMADGE, GA., CHAIRMAN
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 31, 1979

The Secretary
State Department
2201 C Street
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The enclosed is submitted for such consideration as it may warrant. I would appreciate a report on it, in duplicate, to accompany the return of the enclosure.

Your kind attention to this request is greatly appreciated.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Herman E. Talmadge

HERMAN E. TALMADGE

Enclosure
HET:mb

Re: Welfare of Rudolf Hess imprisoned in Spandau Prison.

From: [redacted] B6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY B Thomson DATE MAR 2 1 1983

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☒ in part
PA or (FOI) EXEMPTIONS B6

(4)

DEAR MR, SENATOR TALMADGE

I AM A TAX PAYING, WORKING CITIZEN NOT ONLY OF GEORGIA, BUT THE UNITED STATES AS WELL. HOWEVER, JUST RECENTLY HAVE WONDERED HOW THIS COUNTRY WITH ALL OF ITS OTHER ECONOMIC HASSLES CAN RIGHTLY AND JUSTIFIABLY CONTINUE TO MAN AN OUTDATED PRISON LIKE SPANDAU IN WEST GERMANY?

AS WAS AGSO ON MY MIND - I WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH IT COST THE TAXPAYER A YEAR. I UNDERSTAND THE PRISON IS RUN BY U.S., FRANCE, RUSSIA, AND BRITAIN? THIS BRINGS ME TO ANOTHER POINT: WITH SO MUCH TALK OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHAT BECAME OF THE RIGHTS OF RUDOLF HESS, WHO IS THE ONLY PRISONER STILL BEING HELD? THIS MAN IS 86 YEARS OLD, GOING ON 87, AND IS OF NO HARM, TO SOCIETY ANYWAY, AT LEAST NOT NOW. WHY IS THIS MAN BEING PERSECUTED IN SUCH A TOTALLY SHAMEFUL AND DEGRADING WAY? IT IS TRUE THAT HESS WAS A NAZI, HOWEVER SINCE WHEN HAVE PEOPLE BEEN GIVEN LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR

MERELY FIGHTING FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE, OR AS HESS DID EVEN IN TIME OF WAR, TRY TO MAKE A FORM OF PEACE

HERE IS A QUOTE FROM WINSTON CHURCHILL "REFLECTING UPON THE WHOLE OF THIS STORY, I AM GLAD NOT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WAY IN WHICH HESS BEEN TREATED AND IS BEING TREATED. WHATEVER MAY BE THE MORAL GUILT OF A GERMAN WHO STOOD NEAR TO HITLER. HESS HAD IN MY VIEW ATONED FOR THIS BY HIS COMPLETELY DEVOTED AND FRANTIC DEED OF LUNATIC BENEVOLENCE. HE CAME TO US ON HIS OWN FREE WILL, AND THOUGH WITHOUT AUTHORITY, HAD SOMETHING OF THE QUALITY OF AN ENVOY. HE WAS A MEDICAL AND NOT A CRIMINAL CASE, AND SHOULD BE SO REGARDED." END OF QUOTE-

I AM NOT IN THE NAZI PARTY, OR GO ALONG WITH THERE IDEAS- HOWEVER, THIS ONE HELPLESS, OLD MAN SHOULD FOR HUMANITIES SAKE BE LET

OUT OF SPANDAU.

MAYBE MY OPINION IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE A THING. I WILL HOWEVER DO WHAT I CAN REGARDLESS OF ANYONES OPINION.

DO YOU KNOW OF A GROUP WHO WANTS HESS TO BE RELEASED? IF SO IS IT A PRIVATE GROUP, OR IS IT A CHARTER GROUP?

I WONDERED IF YOU COULD FIND OUT FOR ME WHO, OR WHAT ORGANIZATION I COULD CONTACT IN WEST GERMANY ABOUT THE HESS MATTER?

DO YOU KNOW IF THERE IS A WAY TO CONTACT HESS' WIFE ILSE, I BELIEVE IS HOW IT'S IS SPELLED.

THERE IS A CLOCK IN THE COURTYARD OF SPANDAU PRISON. IT TICKED SLOWLY, TOO SLOWLY FOR SOME PRISONERS. THE QUESTION IS WHO IS GOING TO STOP THE SPANDAU CLOCK FOR HESS?

YOURS SINCERELY

[redacted] B6